



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 17, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Marcela Campoli, Donna Cawley, Yingxi Chen, Desiree de la Torre, Susan Emery, Laurel Fain, Jessica Kronstadt, Gabriela Lemus, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Dr. Bridgers, Dr. Kapunan

Members Absent: Jonathan Arias, Crystal DeVance- Wilson, Kenda Harris, Adam Lustig, Elliott Brown

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson (on behalf of Essie McGuire)

DHHS Staff: Dr. Rogers, Felicia Hugee, Meghan Sontag

Guests: Becky Smith

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p>Meeting call to Order– Susan Emery, Vice- Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm. The COH Vice Chair welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners and asked all members to introduce themselves. The 5 newly appointed Commissioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Betty Smith, Cesar Perez, Donna Cawley, Yingxi Chen, Laurel Fain The Vice Chair provided Council meeting updates- on the 20th Oct the HHS Committee of the County Council met, and on 1st Nov the County Council met as the County Board of Health. Crystal was there at both meetings to explain COH priorities. Both groups were supportive and agreed with our priorities. Due to absence of quorum in October those meeting minutes are informational. Also due absence of quorum in October, need to vote to approve September meeting minutes. Vice Chair announced this is the last meeting for Jess Kronstadt as her term is complete. Commissioners offered their thanks for her work throughout her term. 	<p>Add new Commissioners to Teams channel- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p>
<p>Approval of September Minutes– Susan Emery- Vice Chair</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Gabriela Lemus to approve the September 15, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Alana Aronin. The minutes were unanimously approved</p>	<p>Post the approved September minutes to COH website- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p>
<p>MCDHHS Health Officer's Report – Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Chief of Public Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kisha Davis is the new Health Officer, confirmation held Tuesday November 15th County has split the roles of Chief of Public Health Services and Public Health Officer- Dr. Davis will serve as Public Health Officer and Dr. Bridgers will serve as Chief of Public Health Services 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis will serve in a Chief Medical Officer capacity responsible for policy, regulatory matters, working with the state and looking at federal/national trends • Dr. Bridgers will be responsible for programming, implementation, fiscal staff management and oversight. Confirmation is scheduled with Council next month. • COVID19 cases continue to trend down despite a slight increase earlier. Started planning in the summer, in partnership with Dr. Kapunan, for a tri-demic (flu, RSV, COVID), worked diligently on a coordinated plan to respond- patient education, working with providers, providing resources to communities and partners to ensure all are aware. Continue to use data science to drive our responses. • Wastewater surveillance began last month for early detection. Location of surveillance monitoring will move strategically throughout the County based on social determinants of health index, locations of healthcare facilities, where cases are increasing. • Vice Chair asked Dr. Bridgers regarding Public Health Services involvement in Thrive Montgomery 2050 : PHS has been doing their own research but has not been formally asked by Council to participate • Vice Chair asked Dr. Bridgers how to get hospital ICD codes reporting from the County (ICD Code Z77 other contact with and (suspected) exposures to hazardous health) : Advised to contact Kenneth Welch, Acting Senior Administrator, Licensure and Regulatory Services and also Chair of State Environmental Health Committee • Dr. Bridgers reported high cases of Influenza and RSV in the area, COVID19 cases have been trending downward as we continue to administer bivalent boosters. • Dr. Kapunan reported increases in absences from MCPS due to respiratory illness however confirmed diagnosis is hard to track. Anecdotal evidence suggests most are out with flu. • Dr. Bridgers shared wastewater surveillance is an emerging technology and is being piloted for 6 months in the County. Hope to expand this pilot project in the future. Pilot project has been deployed during a time when we know there is an increase likely in respiratory illness (Sept- Feb). • Question if Dr. Bridgers has seen any potential correlations between air quality and increase in respiratory conditions that are happening in the County. Dr. Bridgers shared this has been considered and looking at chronic disease management (asthma, respiratory illness) in Public Health Services under Dr. Rogers. This could be a question or ask for Dr. Davis to look at policy around this, COH can provide questions regarding this topic. • Dr. Bridgers thanked the Commission on Health for support provided in dual role as acting Chief of Public Health and Public Health Officer. 	
<p>Overview of Maternal Child Health Services – Rebecca Smith, MPH, BSN, RN, Senior Administrator, Maternal Child Health Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becky Smith provided an overview of Maternal Child Health Services (slide deck provided to Commissioners) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infant mortality rate of babies born to Non-Hispanic Black women is almost 4x's higher than babies born to Non-Hispanic White women. There is a higher disparity in Montgomery County than in other parts of the State. This disparity is not reflective of income or education- true for all income and education categories. ○ In 2018, the number of infant deaths in Montgomery County was one of the highest in the State with 52 deaths. 	<p>Provide additional questions not answered during the presentation to Meghan. – <i>Commissioners (complete)</i></p> <p>Compile questions and share with Becky Smith- <i>COH staff (complete)</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff of 67 people- most are Nurses and CHWs. Majority of work is case management and care coordination for at-risk pregnant and post-partum women or families with newborns. ○ 5 programs offered: Medicaid Coordinate Care Unit, Babies Born Healthy Program, Maternity Partnership Program (biggest program). S.M.I.L.E Program and Adolescent Pregnancy Coordinated Care Program as well as lead poisoning and asthma prevention program, immunization program and mortality/fatality review boards. ○ Question regarding languages spoken by staff- Spanish, French, Amharic, Portuguese, Korean as well as availability of language line. 95% of patients are Spanish-speaking and come from Latin America- not eligible for Medicaid or other insurance. ○ Healthy Babies Equity Act passed by the State earlier this year, allows for all low-income women regardless of immigration status, to be eligible for Medicaid, continues for one year after delivery. Will be enacted July 1. One of the biggest concerns is having enough providers that accept Medicaid and have language capabilities. ○ Montgomery County is requiring all County facilities have lactation rooms. ○ Doulas now accepted by Medicaid. Not enough providers in the County approved by Medicaid. Looking into doula providers in the area that patients can be referred too. Potentially can help with providing practicum experience. ○ Screening for violence is a standard component of all MCH case management. ○ Needs: Lactation Consultants, Social Workers, Behavioral Health Therapists on site, more doctors that accept Medicaid <u>and</u> have language capabilities <u>and</u> accept patients later in pregnancy. A lot of County providers do accept Medicaid. 	
<p>Workgroup Huddle and Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair explained the 3 priority areas: Access to Care, Environmental Health and Education and Public Health Administration • Meghan reminded Commissioners of their workgroup affiliation (if previously selected) and set up break out rooms for Commissioners to convene and work. • The Workgroups are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access to Care Brent Berger, Alana Aronin, Desiree de la Torre, Donna Cawley, Betty Smith ○ Environmental Health and Education Cesar Perez, Susan Emery, Gabriela Lemus, Laurel Fain, Yingxi Cimo Chen ○ Public Health Administration Jonathan Arias, Elliott Brown, Marcela Campoli, Adam Lustig, Tara Clemons Johnson, Dr. Kapunan • Workgroups shared their discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Access to Care</u>: Areas trying to address include transportation, partnerships between County and private hospitals, need data to understand needs ○ <u>Environmental Health and Education</u>: Would like to analyze the ICD code Z77 from 2000 and beyond by zip code to assess the problem. Will ask Kenneth Welch about this ICD code next COH meeting. ○ <u>Public Health Administration</u>: spoke about data management, data governance and how we should advocate for integration of data that already exists, so all the pockets can be put together and have a County-wide data structure. Will also need to know what data we will need in the 	<p>Discuss further the needs of the Access to Care group- <i>Susan and Brent</i></p> <p>Complete the COH Handbook and provide to Commissioners- <i>COH staff (in progress)</i></p> <p>Provide the Thrive 2050 plan to Commissioners- <i>COH staff (complete)</i></p>

<p>future so can start collecting that as well. Challenges include data collected for other purposes and limitations that may exist when using that data to inform other areas (MCPS data can inform education but may not necessarily be health data), budgets assigned to departments and not programs so it is hard to make a programmatic evaluation and relate it to a budgetary priority.</p>	
<p>COH Liaison Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair reminded Commissioners of the expectation to serve as a Liaison to another BCC with the goal of observing and finding opportunities for collaboration on cross cutting priority areas • Commissioners verbally signed up for liaison roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donna Cawley- Mental Health Advisory Committee (emailed 11/23) ▪ Cesar Perez- Early Childhood Coordinating Council (emailed 11/23) ▪ Laurel Fain- Victim Services Advisory Board ▪ Betty Smith- Community Action Board (emailed 11/23) ▪ Yingxi Chen- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council and Asian American Health Initiative (emailed 11/23) ▪ Laurel Fain- Commission on Homelessness 	<p>Connect Commissioners to the BCC for which they will serve as liaison- <i>COH staff (complete)</i></p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Gabriela Lemus to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Susan Emery. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm</p>	